

Dumping of scrap metals into the country

723. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is being made a dumping ground for all kinds of scrap metals, which are imported freely;

(b) if so, the details of various scrap metal being imported and the names of countries from where these are imported;

(c) whether Government would reconsider and restrict such imports to the Minimum; and

(d) if so, the action taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The import of metal scrap in the country is being allowed subject to the condition that it does not contain hazardous, toxic waste, radioactive contaminated waste/scrap containing radioactive material, any type of arms and ammunitions, mines, shells live or used cartridges or any other explosive material in any form either used or otherwise. The details of scrap imported into the country during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise is available in the Publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II (Imports)-Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.

SEZ by WIPRO in Nagpur

†724. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of WIPRO and some other companies have visited Nagpur, to have Special Economic Zone in the area;

(b) if so, whether the company has applied to set up Special Economic Zone in Nagpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) by when the Special Economic Zone would be set up by that company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received from M/s. WIPRO for setting up Special Economic Zone in Nagpur.

Avoiding SEZS on agricultural land

725. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEZ Board is not supposed to give clearance to any SEZ proposal which includes Prime Agricultural Land ;

(b) if so, what is the specific definition of Prime Agricultural Land;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Visakhapatnam SEZ covers cashewnut and coconut plantations;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to remove all coconut and cashewnut plantations from the Visakhapatnam SEZ; and

(e) the reasons for ignoring rules regarding avoiding use of agricultural land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Land being a State subject, the approvals for SEZ are given based on the recommendations of the concerned State Government. The States have been advised that while acquiring land for SEZs, if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ.

(c) The Visakhapatnam SEZ set up by the Central Government has been functioning at Visakhapatnam since 1994. There are only a few Cashewnut plants in this SEZ.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

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